

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 EB-11 /140 W

----- 023340

R 221657Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6972

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PFOR, GW, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: FRG-FRENCH RELATIONS: CHIRAC AFFAIR STILL

ROILING THE WATERS IN BONN

REF: A. PARIS 22274; B. BONN 11668

1. FRENCH AGRICULTURE MINISTER CHIRAC'S AUGUST 13 INTERVIEW IN LE POINT (REFTELS) CONTINUES TO EXCITE ATTENTION AND COMMENT IN THE FRG. THE FRENCH OFFICIAL'S CHARGES CONCERNING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED LACK OF DEVOTION TO THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION MOVEMENT WERE PICKED UP OVER THE WEEK END BY OPPOSITION LEADERS CARSTENS AND STRAUSS WHO, SOMEWHAT HEAVY-HANDEDLY, ECHOED CHIRAC'S ATTACKS ON BRANDT'S WESTPOLITIK.

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2. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC REACTION TO

THESE ATTACKS AND TO THE CONTINUED ATTENTION THE FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP IS ATTRACTING IN THE NEWS MEDIA HAS CONTINUED TO BE FAIRLY RESTRAINED, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE REMARKS OF FRG OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING MORE POINTED THAN BEFORE. FOR EXAMPLE, AGRICULTURE MINISTER ERTL AND FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY APEL IN PRESS INTERVIEWS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE QUESTIONED CHIRAC'S SINCERITY, ERTL CITING THAT EUROPE WILL HAVE TO BUILD ON A "FAIR PARTNERSHIP" AND WITH FAIR TACTICS. FINANCE MINISTER SCHMIDT NOTED IN AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD EXPERIENCED NO SUCH PROBLEMS IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GISCARD.

3. IN PRIVATE, FRG OFFICIALS AND CHANCELLOR BRANDT PERSONALLY ARE REPORTED TO BE EXTREMELY ANGRY OVER THE CHIRAC AFFAIR AND, PERHAPS MORE, BY THE USE THE OPPOSITION HAS TRIED TO MAKE OF IT. IN A MEETING WITH CARSTENS ON AUGUST 21, BRANDT REPORTEDLY GAVE A HEATED DEFENSE OF HIS EUROPEAN POLICY. ALSO, BRANDT LAST WEEK INSTRUCTED THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO MAKE KNOWN HIS STRONG SENTIMENTS TO THE FRENCH. THUS, IN ADDITION TO THE DEMARCHE MADE IN PARIS LAST WEEK (BONN 11668), STATE SECRETARY FRANK CALLED IN FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAUVAGNARGUES IN BONN AUGUST 17 TO EXPRESS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S IRRITATION. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, FRANK MADE HIS POINTS ACIDLY AND THE EXCHANGE WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN QUITE UNPLEASANT. A FURTHER INDICATION OF FRG REACTION MAY COME LATER THIS WEEK IF FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL FOLLOWS THROUGH ON A SCHEDULED INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION FROM OUR FONOFF SOURCES AND OTHER EC COUNTRY DIPLOMATS IN BONN THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND BRANDT, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE NOW GOTTEN THEIR BACKS UP. THEY CONSIDER THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12003

FRENCH APPROACH TO BE AN EXTREMELY CRUDE AND UNACCEPTABLE FORM OF PRESSURE TACTICS AIMED AT PUTTING THE FRG ON THE DEFENSIVE IN THE UPCOMING EC TALKS, PARTICULARLY ON REFORM OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THE FRENCH ARE AWARE THAT BONN WANTS THE AGRICULTURAL REFORM DISCUSSION TO LEAD TO SOME RELIEF FOR THE FRG IN TERMS OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF THE CAP ON THE NATIONAL BUDGET. THE GENERAL FEELING AMONG OUR CONTACTS IS THAT THE GERMANS ARE DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW THE ALL-TOO TRANSPARENT FRENCH PLOY TO CUT OFF THIS DISCUSSION.

5. REFLECTING A SIMILARLY FIRM LINE ON THE BROADER CHIRAC CHARGES, BOTH THE APEL AND SCHMIDT INTER-VIEWS HIT THE THEME THAT THERE IS REALLY NO FRANCO-CONFIDENTIAL

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GERMAN PROBLEM, BUT RATHER A FRANCO-EUROPEAN PROBLEM IN THAT FRANCE IS INCREASINGLY OUT OF STEP WITH THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY. IN ANY EVENT, THE RAPID RISING OF TEMPERATURES OVER THE CHIRAC AFFAIR MAY BE A PREVIEW OF THE "HOT FALL" IN THE EC WHICH FRG OBSERVERS EXPECT TO DEVELOP OVER AGRICULTURAL POLICY, ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, ATLANTIC RELATIONS, REGIONAL POLICY AND OTHER DIFFICULT ISSUES THE COMMUNITY WILL FACE AFTER THE SUMMER RECESS.

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